

Remarks

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the Official Action dated April 7, 2003, in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-15, 17-28, 30-35, 40, 42-45, 47, 48, 50, 51, 53 and 54 are now pending in the application, with Claims 1, 7, 15, 22, 25, 28, 32 and 40 being independent. Claims 7 and 25 have been amended herein.

Applicant notes with appreciation that indication that Claims 1-6, 22-24, 32-35, 45, 48, 51 and 54 have been allowed. These claims have not been amended herein, thus remaining in condition for allowance.

Claims 7-9, 15, 25-28, 40, 47, 50 and 53 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,172,701 (Tokura et al.). Claims 10-14, 17-21, 30, 31 and 42-44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Tokura et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,907,331 (Markham). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Each of independent Claims 7 and 25 recites, inter alia, a plurality of thermal printing elements for printing. However, Tokura et al. is directed to a printhead that includes plural light emitting elements. Thus, Tokura et al. fails to disclose or suggest an important feature of the present invention recited in independent Claims 7 and 25.

Markham describes an ink jet printhead that includes an array of ink-jet ejectors 16. However, one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to incorporate ink-jet ejectors, such as those in Markham, into a printhead that utilizes an

LED array, as in Tokura et al. Therefore, the combination of Tokura et al. and Markham is not well-founded.

Thus, independent Claims 7 and 25 are also believed to be patentable over the citations of record.

Independent Claims 15, 28 and 40 each recite, inter alia, continuously receiving or outputting image data and data for setting a printing element driving time through common signal lines. In Tokura et al., sets of printing data and light quantity correction data are input through data input terminals DI1-DI4. However, as described at col. 9, lines 13-42, the light quantity correction data changes the drive current. There is no disclosure that this data sets a printing element driving time. Thus, Tokura et al. fails to disclose or suggest an important feature of the present invention recited in independent Claims 15, 28 and 40. Markham is not believed to remedy this deficiency.

Thus, independent Claims 15, 28 and 40 are also believed to be patentable over the citations of record.

In summary, independent Claims 7, 15, 25, 28 and 40 are believed to be patentable over the citations of record. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the §§ 102 and 103 rejections are respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that in addition to allowed Claims 1-6, 22-24, 32-35, 45, 48, 51 and 54, the present invention is patently defined by independent Claims 7, 15, 25, 28 and 40. Dependent Claims 8-14, 17-21, 26, 27, 30, 31, 42-44, 47, 50 and 53 are also allowable, in their own right, for defining features


of the present invention in addition to those recited in their respective independent claims.

Individual consideration of these dependent claims is requested.

Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted, ✓


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